Delay in power projects

2057. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over Rs. 10,000 crore have gone up in smoke due to delay in power projects;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government are unable to maintain schedules for completion of power projects;

(c) the reasons for such delays;

(d) the chronic issues responsible for these delays;

(e) the obvious, chronic and predictable issues not anticipated and solutions found;

(f) whether Government will place administrative responsibility for the huge losses; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (g) An effective monitoring mechanism has been put in place to see that the cleared power projects are executed in time. The CEA has a nodal officer for each project, both at the conception stage as well as during the execution. In addition, regular review meetings are being organized in the Ministry of Power.

New benchmarks for setting up of power projects have been achieved as under:

(i) Coal based: The average lead time for the 500 MW unit reduced from 49 months to 38 months. The average lead time for the 210/250MW units reduced from 32 months to 28 months. Ramagundam STPS III of NTPC commissioned in 37 months. The Raichur TPS unit of Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd. commissioned in 26 months.

(ii) Gas based: Average lead time for gas based projects has come from 24 months to 20 months. Ramgarh CCPP open cycle commissioned in 15 months.

(iii) Hydro based: Average lead time of new hydro project is likely to be 60 months. Chamera-ll (3x100MW) of NHPC commissioned in 49 months.

Thermal power projects are being executed in time.

However, in case of some hydro projects there has been some delay due to reasons given below:

(i) Delay in investment decisions

(ii) Contractual problems

(iii) Land acquisition problems

(iv) Geological surprises

(v) Natural calamities such as floods etc.

The larger hydro projects which had slipped from earlier Plan and had experienced some of the above problems have been getting completed in the 10th Plan.

Private power plants In Uttar Pradesh

2058. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Uttar Pradesh Government have approached the Union Government to permit the private companies to set up power generation plants in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether necessary permission has been sanctioned and if not, when it is expected to be given; and

(c) the extent to which the State's electricity needs shall be met and at what per unit cost?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) No, Sir, As per Eectricity Act 2003, any generating company may establish, operate and maintain a generating station without obtaining a license under this Act if it complies with the technical standards relating to connectivity with the grid specified by Central Electricity Authority. No permission is required from Central Government for setting up such power station.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.